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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Attached is a copy [redacted] which is submitted as received [redacted]

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REPORT

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 25 Mar. 1955

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Until 1949, the well-known Mining School (Bergakademie) in Freiberg (N 50-55, E 13-21), Saxony, supplied German mines with mining engineers and mining technicians. In 1947, when uranium ore was discovered in East Germany, approximately 750,000 workers were attracted to the new industry and, as a result, the Mining School was unable to supply enough professional miners for the newly-opened mines. Because of this, Wismut A.G. founded a new mining school in Freiberg called the "Bergtechnikum."

In July 1951, the Bergtechnikum was taken over by the East German government; however, from 1949 until 1951, Wismut A.G. operated the school from its own funds and selected students only from among its own employees. These employees, selected on the basis of previous technical and theoretical education in mining, included persons who had previously worked in stone quarries, coal or salt mines, etc., persons who had had a great deal of mining experience but no theoretical education, and young workers who were unable to finish their education because of World War II but who were promising individuals to educate for political purposes. Members of the latter group were looked upon as prospective political leaders in East Germany. Only persons under 45 years of age and those who were members of the Free German Trade Union (Freier Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund - FDGB) were selected.

Persons excluded as students were those who had been members of the SS, those who had joined the Nazi Party prior to 1935, and former career officers of the German Wehrmacht. Former NCOs of the Wehrmacht were admitted only if they could produce a certificate of membership from the FDGB, the German-Soviet Friendship Society (Gesellschaft für Deutsch-Sowjetische Freundschaft - DSF), or other mass organizations. During 1949, females were admitted to the school, but, after that year, Wismut discontinued this practice.

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4. Each year, the curriculum of the Bergtechnikum was dependent on the previous theoretical and practical education the students had received. During the school year 1950-1951, there were about 400 students, 50 per cent of whom had had no practical or theoretical knowledge of mining. These students attended the school for only one year and were then sent back to the Wismut mines for one-half to one year of practical studies. After completing this practical education, they were called back to the school for one more year of theoretical education. The remaining 50 per cent of the students in the 1950-1951 class had already had technical training and included persons who had received training as technicians, commutators, foremens' assistants, engineers, etc. These students received the normal one-year course at the school and were awarded certificates or diplomas after completing theoretical and practical examinations.
5. Diplomas were awarded to students specializing in the following subjects:
 - a. Technical Supervisor in Mining or Mining Foreman (Technische Aufsichtsperson im Bergbau - Steiger)
 - b. Mining Geologist (Montangeologe)
 - c. Technical Supervisor in Mining Survey - Aboveground or Under-ground (Technische Aufsichtsperson im Vermessungswesen des Bergbaus - Über oder Untertage) (or Topographic and Mine Surveyor - Topograf und Markscheider).

Students who failed their examination, those who were called back by Wismut, or those who left the school of their own will, received a certificate stating only that they had attended the Bergtechnikum for a certain length of time. This certificate gave no qualifications.

6. Before entering the school, students received a medical examination to determine the condition of their heart, lungs, eyes, ears, and whether or not they had VD or any other diseases. This examination was done by official Wismut A.G. medical doctors. After arriving at the school, students were again given a medical examination and, during their enrollment, received these examinations every three months at the Wismut hospital in Freiberg.
7. Entrance examinations consisted of political and theoretical subjects. Eight students were placed in a room with one teacher and given mathematical problems to solve within 20 minutes. They were also given 8 to 10 questions on general intelligence such as: "what does Wismut mean?", "what would you do if an instrument is out of order?", "how can an instrument be adjusted?", etc. These questions had to be answered on paper within 30 minutes. The third and final problem was to give the correct answer to a political question within 30 minutes. At the end of this examination, each student was asked to write a one-page curriculum vitae for which there was no time limit. At the conclusion of the entire examination, papers were collected and graded. The highest score obtainable was 140, but students were never told what grade they had received. The day after this examination, each student was called before the Politleiter of the school and was told whether or not he had been accepted as a student. Source did not know how low a grade enabled a prospective student to be accepted but knew that if a student received a low grade and had excellent political training that person would be accepted by the Politleiter. Among the questions asked by the Politleiter were the following: "what is your opinion of the Peoples' Police (Volkspolizei)?", "what is your opinion about the unification of Germany?", etc. After the interview with the Politleiter, those persons who had been accepted were sent to their classes.

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8. All students had to sign a contract with Wismut A.G. when they entered the school. This contract stated that the student was obliged to work for Wismut after completing his training regardless of the results of the final examinations. In cases where a person was expelled or recalled from the school within the first six months, he was required to work for Wismut for only one year.
9. The Bergtechnikum gave the following courses at the time source attended the school: one class in topography with a total of about 30 students, three classes in mine surveying with about 100 students, four classes in mining geology with about 120 students, and five classes for mining foremen with about 150 students. The average number of students in each class was about 30 students. [redacted] topographer's course [redacted] received six hours of instruction a week in mathematics, four hours of physics, two hours of chemistry, three hours of Russian language, three hours of mineralogy, three hours of cartography, five hours of drawing and sketches, three hours on instruments, five hours of sociology, four hours of geology, and two hours on the science of mining and mining security. Students attended classes five days a week and had their week-ends free. On Mondays, they attended classes from 1230 to 1900 hours; from Tuesday through Friday, 0800 to 1515 hours with one-half hour for lunch at 1200 hours. Occasionally, students attended class on Saturday from 0500 to 0900 hours. In addition to classes, students were occasionally taken on excursions by the mineralogy teacher, whose name source does not remember. They were taken by train to the Erzgebirge for one or two-day trips when they collected rocks and made topographical surveys.
10. Intermediate examinations were held every three months. These examinations consisted of three questions on each subject and were both oral and written. At the end of the school year, a final examination (Abschlussprüfung) was given which consisted of five questions on each subject, both oral and written.
11. [redacted] there were about 40 teachers and 26 administrative personnel connected with the Bergtechnikum. Each year, one of the teachers was elected rector magnificus. The school had a Soviet director [redacted] theoretically, he was the head of the school but did nothing other than sign papers.
12. Students were billeted two to each room at the Ernst Thaelmann Home (Ernst Thaelmann Heim) on Chemnitzer Street (now probably renamed Karl Marx Street); this building was about 10 minutes away from the Bergtechnikum. Students paid 40 East Marks monthly for their room and their lunch. Breakfast and dinner were paid for by the students at local restaurants. The lunch at the school consisted of soup, 100 g of meat, vegetables (including 400 g of potatoes), 20 g of butter, bread and, occasionally, fruit.
13. Until October 1950, students received the same amount of money they had received as salary before entering the school. This amount was the average salary they received during the last three months on their jobs; however, after 1950, Wismut discontinued this system and gave a monthly amount of 350 East Marks to married students and 300 East Marks to the unmarried students.
14. The school had its own SED Party organization. Among the students, each 10 who were SED members created their own Party group. Each of these groups elected its own secretary who was responsible for the political education of the group. The group secretaries were in close contact with the school's SED secretary, who gave every group secretary instructions in political education. Once or twice each week, the group secretaries held a meeting which lasted for about one hour when they discussed political questions. Every month, all SED members at the school were called together for a general meeting which was conducted by the Party secretary of the school. At this meeting, talks were given and decisions made which did not necessarily affect the students. Occasionally, members of the SED Central Committee at Chemnitz attended as guests.

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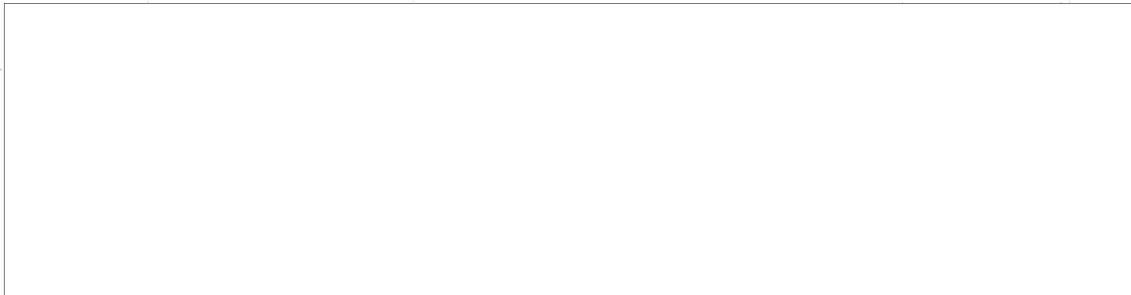
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15. The school provided students with the necessary equipment for sports and recreation. Students played soccer, held track meets, and had general field athletics in the yard of the school. Those students who were most proficient were awarded medals for various sports. The students had their own sports club, the HSB (Hochschule Sportgemeinschaft Bergtechnikum) in Freiberg. Movies were shown at the Ernst Thaelmann Home twice each week; however, only Soviet films were shown; The price of admission was 10 pfennigs. Once each month, a social evening was organized by Wismut A.G. for the students.

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Enclosure:  sketch of site layout of the Wismut A.G. Mining School in Freiberg, Saxony.

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Legend to Enclosure, Wismut A.G. Mining School in Freiberg, Saxony

1. Main building which contained administrative offices and classrooms. This building was built of brick, had a tile roof, and was approximately 15 m high and 40 m wide. The front of the building measured 290 m. The wings were 125 m.
2. A lavatory for men and women was built of brick, had a flat roof, and measured 9 x 14 x 5 m.
3. Storage for school equipment, built of brick with a flat roof, measured 15 x 24 x 5 m.
4. A brick building with a tile roof whose dimensions were 18 x 100 x 11 m.
 - a. meeting rooms for Party and mass organizations.
 - b. garages.
 - c. storage space for sports and gymnasium equipment.
5. A wooden cabin where heavy pipes, etc., were stored. This building had a flat roof and measured 10 x 30 x 6 m.
6. A concrete dump for ashes.
7. A stone wall, about 1.80 m high and 55 cm wide.
8. A stone-based wooden fence with stone posts approximately 1.30 m high.
9. A derrick in the courtyard, about 20 m high on a 6 x 6 meter base. The skeleton of the derrick was made of both steel and wood.
10. The courtyard, 220 m long on the side, which ran parallel to the front of Point 1; the wings were 90 m long. This courtyard contained scattered trees and shrubbery.

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